Author’s response to reviews

Title: Disease characteristics and treatment of women with early onset breast cancer participating in the
Prospective study of Outcomes in Sporadic versus Hereditary breast cancer (POSH)

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Dear Editors,

We would like BMC Cancer to consider this manuscript for open access publication. This describes the
protocol for a very large prospective cohort study in young onset breast cancer in the UK. I have netered
this as a research article since the paper contains not only the research protocol but a detailed description of
the clinical characteristics of the patients. The steering committee have discussed and agreed that if
possible this paper should appear in an open access journal for two main reasons. Firstly of course to allow
brevity in subsequent papers permitting ready reference back to the study methods and cohort
characteristics. Secondly to facilitate scientific collaboration, we recognise that this is a unique resource and
welcome proposals for collaboration from scientists who have a proposal that would be most effectively
investigated if given access to this material and linked clinical information.

We hope that BMC Cancer will be able to publish our paper and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely

Diana Eccles (on behalf of the authors)